

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows, pursuant to the objections of the Examiner.

1. (Original) A carding machine having a carding cylinder and at least a first cooperating device in cooperating relationship with the carding cylinder, comprising an adjusting device for setting a working gap between the carding cylinder and said first cooperating device, the adjusting device comprising a thermal device for adjusting the temperature of a support member of the cylinder.

2. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, in which the first cooperating device is a clothed roller.

3. (Currently amended) A carding machine according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, in which the clothed roller is a doffer.

4. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 3, further comprising a second cooperating device, said second cooperating device being a licker-in.

5. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, in which the thermal device is so arranged that the temperature of the support member can be so matched to the working gap that, in the event of a change in the dimensions of the cylinder the working gap can be set or readjusted.

6. (Currently amended) A carding machine according to ~~claim 21~~ claim 1, in which the support member comprises a framework wall and the thermal device comprises a heating device arranged for heating at least one element of the framework wall.

7. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 6, in which the framework wall includes a heating element.

8. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, in which there is at least one heating element on each side of the carding machine.

9. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 8, in which the temperature of the or each heating element is adjustable.

10. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, having at least one framework wall that has at least two support struts on each side and a crossmember, and in which the support struts are expandable or contractable in the vertical direction.

11. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, in which the cylinder and at least one neighbouring roller are arranged on their own respective framework walls or struts.

12. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 11, in which the cylinder is arranged on a framework that is higher than a framework of at least one neighbouring roller and the thermal device comprises at least one heating element arranged in the region of the cylinder framework that projects above the framework of a neighboring roller.

13. (Currently amended) A carding machine according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, in which the temperature to be set for achieving a desired adjustment of the working gap is determinable in accordance with the relationship: $\Delta a = R \times \alpha \times \Delta T$

wherein Δa is a change in the working gap,

R is a constant,

α is an angle subtended by at the axis of the cylinder by a first plane containing the axes of the cylinder and the doffer and a second plane containing the axes of the licker-in and the cylinder, and

ΔT is a difference between an actual framework temperature and a target temperature.

14. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, comprising at least one temperature-measuring element associated with the cylinder.

15. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, comprising a doffer in cooperating relationship with the cylinder, and at least one temperature-measuring element associated with the doffer.

16. (Previously presented) A carding machine according to claim 1, comprising a licker-in in cooperating relationship with the cylinder and at least one temperature-measuring element.

17. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, in which there are temperature-measuring elements associated with the surfaces of one or more rollers.

18. (Original) A carding machine according to claim 1, comprising an electronic control

and regulating device to which the thermal device and at least one temperature-measuring element are connected.

19. (Previously presented) A carding machine according to claim 1, comprising a gap-measuring element for determining the gap between two neighbouring rollers.

20. (Original) A carding machine having a carding cylinder and at least one clothed roller in cooperation with the cylinder, and further comprising an adjusting device for setting a working gap between the cylinder and said clothed roller, the adjusting device comprising a thermal device for adjusting the temperature of a support member that carries the cylinder for carrying thermal expansion or contraction of at least a part of the support member, the carding machine further comprising a temperature-measuring device for measuring the temperature of at least one of the clothed roller and the cylinder, a gap-measuring device for measuring said working gap and a control device to which said thermal device, said temperature-measuring device and said gap-making device are connected to the control device for effecting adjustment of the working gap in dependence on the measured gap.

21. (Original) A device on a carding machine for setting the working gap between the cylinder and at least one neighbouring roller, which cooperate with one another with a small gap between their cylindrical surfaces (working gap) at the fibre transfer points and in which the working gap is readjustable to pre-determined value as a result of changes in dimensions caused by thermal expansion and/or centrifugal forces, wherein the temperature of the framework walls carrying the cylinder can be so matched to the working gap by means of devices for supplying or discharging heat that in the event of a change in the dimensions of the rollers the working gap between the cylinder and at least one neighboring roller can be set or readjusted.

In the Abstract:

Pursuant to the Examiner's objection to the Abstract, please amend the Abstract as follows.

In a device on a carding machine for setting the working gap between the cylinder and ~~at least one~~ a neighbouring roller, which cooperate with one another with a ~~small~~ working gap between their cylindrical surfaces (~~working gap~~) at the fibre transfer points, the working gap is readjustable ~~to a pre-determined value~~ as a result of changes in dimensions caused by thermal expansion and/or centrifugal forces. ~~In order that in the event of changes in~~ If the dimensions of the rollers change, it is readily possible to set ~~the same or~~ substantially the same gap between neighbouring rollers ~~in a structurally simple way, the~~ The temperature of the framework walls carrying the cylinder can be ~~so~~ matched to the working gap by supplying or discharging heat. ~~If that, in the event of a change in the dimensions of the rollers change,~~ the working gap ~~between the cylinder and at least one neighbouring roller is the same or~~ substantially the same.